

TPB Staff Director's Report October 22 through November 14, 2008

Work on the ULI grant is progressing as scheduled. The visual simulations of the different transit modes in various settings (rural, suburban urban) throughout the region have been completed. The purpose of this exercise is to foster an understanding of the various transit modes and how transit fits into the built environment. The survey will be interactive and posted on the internet via the Survey Monkey portal once we have the focus group session set up. Prior to the survey going live on Survey Monkey we asked several people from our partner agencies and some Board members to go on line and take the survey to provide us feedback. This feedback was used to modify the survey before it goes live for the general public. The same visual images will be used for the public interactive working sessions (focus groups) which have been scheduled for early December before the holidays. **Attachment # 1** to this report provides a sample of the visual images the survey takers will be asked to react to as a part of this exercise.

Adoption of Concept 3 continues to advance with our planning partners and others. We are working with the new intermodal director at GDOT to gain GDOT adoption. Concept 3 was adopted by the Transportation Air Quality (TAQC) Committee of ARC on November 13, 2008 and is scheduled to be voted on by the ARC Board on December 3, 2008. The TAQC action included an endorsement of the ARC Board Chair's creation of an Ad Hoc Committee (after TPB action on the matter) of the ARC to serve as the transitional Transit Implementation Board (TIB). This is currently proposed in the regional governance structure that we will be discussing at the November 20, 2008 meeting. The resolution adopted by TAQC is the same and will be presented for ARC Board action on December 3, 2008. A copy of that resolution is provided here as **Attachment # 2** to this agenda item.

This month's meeting is a combined Operations & Oversight and Planning & Funding Committee meeting for the purposes of progressing towards a TPB recommendation on regional transit governance before the December sunset. We have had a lot of interest and inquiries in what the TPB governance recommendation might entail. I did a quick outline briefing on this for the MACOC Chamber Transportation committee on Wednesday, November 12, 2008 and the question came up at the November 13, 2008 meeting at the ARC TAQC meeting. Since last month's meeting we have heard from a number of Board members as well as from some of our partner agencies. This input along with the instructions from the last Board meeting has been incorporated into the revised proposal for the regional governance structure. This revised information is included in your Board materials. One of the biggest concerns expressed was about the name for the regional governance entity. We had initially selected the name Atlanta Regional Transit Authority or ARTA. However there is some legal issue associated with the use of "Authority" and others wanted a title that did not sound like MARTA. Names that have been suggested include the Transit Services Board (TSB) as suggested by ARC's Regional Transit Institutional Analysis; the Transit Implementation Board (TIB) signifying the move from planning towards action on the vision; Breeze using the branding for the regional fare card system we are perfecting; and another variation such as the Atlanta Regional TIB. The Board may want to discuss and decide on an appropriate name the November 20, 2008 meeting.

Additionally, some of you attended the MARTA Ad Hoc Board committee on Friday, November 7, 2008. A lot of the information presented at that meeting was inclusive of the materials of funding and governance presented at the October TBP meeting. There was a lot of good discussion on how MARTA might support the goals and objectives of regional transit. MARTA created this committee of their Board to keep them informed and knowledgeable about regional action/decisions on a regional transit governance structure. These meetings also helped to promote a regional agreement/support on this issue by their member jurisdictions.

We are still ambitiously working towards a recommendation on regional governance in the November-December timeframe. Since November is a joint Committee meeting the appropriate action would be a recommendation from the committees to the Board on the regional governance proposal. The formal action by the Board would have to come at the December 18, 2008 Board meeting.

We are very proud of the public involvement process that was conducted in support of the regional transit vision (Concept 3). **Attachment # 3** to this agenda item provides you with the Executive Summary of our involvement effort as well as the public involvement brochure on Concept 3. Both of these items have a long shelf life and can be used to provide basic information for the public on the regional vision plan and how we got the public involved in developing the vision.

Congratulations to the State appointed TPB Board members on a successful briefing with Governor Perdue and his transportation liaison Jannine Miller. Doug Tollett, Lara Hodgson and Pam Sessions were joined by Dick Anderson and Sonny Deriso in the briefing which took place on November 4, 2008 in which the Governor was brought up to speed on Concept 3; and the financial analysis and the illustrative implementation program we have developed in support of a decision on regional governance. Staff is glad to have been involved in assisting these Board members with their presentation.

I will not be with you at the November 20, 2008 meeting. I will be serving on an expert panel reviewing the transportation plan developed for Abu Dhabi in the U.A.E. John Crocker will be leading the staff effort for the meeting and Tom Weyandt has agreed to be John's back up during my absence.

During mid September through the end of October, TPB staff held the following meetings and briefings:

- Beltline Scoping meeting to provide input on coordination with Concept 3;
- Georgia State Environmental Conference to present information on concept 3;
- TPB Technical Committee to review the revised Concept 3 and the Illustrative Phased Implementation Plan;
- Quarterly Bus Maintenance Forum hosted by First Transit;
- Central Atlanta Progress to update them on the revised Concept 3 and the TPB's next steps;
- City of Atlanta Transportation Committee to brief them on Concept 3;
- Clayton County briefing on their Comprehensive Transportation Plan and coordination with Concept 3;
- GDOT Intermodal staff and Chief Engineer to discuss conflicts with Concept 3;
- Attendance at the GDOT Board meetings to monitor budget and project issues;

Agenda Item # III.

- Briefing for Senator Doug Stoner and Representative Ed Setzler on Concept 3;
- Briefing for Lt. Governor's assistant; presentation on the TPB Concept 3 Regional Public involvement plan to the Georgia State Planning Conference;
- Attended a briefing on the MARTA Move study to coordinate with regional service concepts;
- Attended regional Breeze coordination workshop;
- Concept 3 briefing for Fulton County Commission;
- Briefing for Atlanta City Council on Concept 3;
- Update on TPB governance discussion for Mc Kinsey and IT³ effort;
- Briefing for MACOC Transportation Committee on Concept 3 and regional transit governance;
- Presentation to the Georgia Transportation Summit on Concept 3;
- Facilitation of regional peer group roundtable on project prioritization.

Attachment # 1 - TPB ULI Visual Survey Samples

Attachment # 2 - ARC TAQC Adopted Resolution

Attachment # 3 - Public Involvement Program Summary and Brochure